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FR-1-2349

1 September 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Executive

SUBJECT: Background Information for the new DCI

1. In the Director's files there is voluminous correspondence on the Delays and Difficulties experienced in recent years by the Director of Central Intelligence in the coordination of intelligence. These memos and studies were prepared in the several CIA offices last autumn for the DCI but were not used as originally intended for a report to the NSC.
2. The State Department submitted Four Problems of interest to it in reorganizing CIA on 2 August 1949 to which the DCI replied on 30 December 1949.
3. Undersecretary Webb on 7 July 1950 submitted for comments a 1 May "agreed" State-Defense Staff Study on the Production of National Intelligence to reorganize CIA to make it largely responsible to a new Intelligence Advisory Committee acting as a Board of Control. The DCI would be one member among equals; and the Committee, rather than the DCI, would have both authority and responsibility for National Intelligence. The DCI replied on 26 July 1950 that this matter of a responsible committee versus a responsible Director of a Central Agency should be clarified, and enclosed his draft of a new National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 1 to give him more authority commensurate with his responsibility — in lieu of that suggested by Undersecretary Webb and the watered-down, agreed-upon NSCIDs which have been the inadequate directives from the NSC on which CIA has been operating up to date. No favorable action has been taken by State and Defense to date although they are still giving consideration to the two proposals.
4. As a corollary to the above mentioned new NSCID No. 1, a new NSCID No. 5 was proposed to General Magruder in the DCI memo of 16 August 1950 re JCS paper No. 445/1 on the Wartime Duties of CIA.
5. The Atomic Energy Intelligence Report of 9 June 1950 by an Ad Hoc Committee points up various deficiencies — Cf. Memorandum of 28 June to Executive Secretary, NSC, from DCI with the comments of the IAC on the Recommendations in the Report and the reply of 25 July 1950 from Executive Secretary, NSC, to DCI on which COAPS is working with the several offices of CIA and with the IAC agencies.

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6. A void is created by Defense Department withholding of operational information concerning strength and disposition (current and planned) of U. S. Forces, the world over.

7. The National Intelligence Survey program of basic intelligence on priority areas is on precarious footing by reason of inadequate support by Defense Department.

8. The general trend during the last three years among the Intelligence Chiefs of the Pentagon (and to a more limited extent, State) has been to follow the JIC procedure where the Pentagon Intelligence Chiefs are in control, rather than the procedure of an Intelligence Advisory Committee which they are supposed to be when they are over here. Thus they hold up matters with which they are not in accord and speed up the matters of interest to them, building up their own positions and their own shops and whittling away at or tearing down the DCI and CIA, overlooking the fact that he and this Agency have statutory powers (inadequate though they may be!).


PRESCOTT CHILDS, Chief
Coordination, Operations
and Policy Staff

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Central Planning Staff - *active 18 Feb 1946 by [unclear] 2 July 1946*

ICARS - 20 July 1946 - 30 Sept 1949

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COAPS - 30 Sept 1949 - 1 Dec 1950

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